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Appl. No. 10/539,109
Amdt. dated October 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated July 25, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. More specifically, the "stirring means" recited in claim 10 is not shown in the drawings. Accordingly, claim 10 has been canceled herein. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

The abstract was objected to for containing more than one paragraph and more than 150 words. Correction to the abstract has been made herein. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshimura et al. (JP 54-48348). Claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claims 4-7, which have been cancelled herein. Claims 4-7 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshimura et al. Accordingly, the present rejection to claim 1 is rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Constable (US 3,716,687). Claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claims 4-7, which have been cancelled herein. Claims 4-7 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Constable. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and claim 10 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the present rejection to claims 1, 3, and 10 are rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by You (US 5,880,442). Claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claims 4-7, which have been cancelled herein. Claims 4-7 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by You. Claim 10 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the present rejection to claims 1 and 10 are rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of (JP 62-100982). As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claims 4-7, which have been cancelled herein. Claim 2 depends from claim 1. Claims 4-7 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of (JP 62-100982). Accordingly, the present rejection to claim 2 is rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-174296. Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 4-7. Claims 3 and 8 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the present rejection will be addressed with respect to claim 1. The combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296 fails to teach or suggest each and every element set forth in claim 1. Specifically, neither Yoshimura nor JP 63-174296 teach or suggest a microwave heating apparatus that has a plurality of electricity feeding ports, the opening area of the feeding port at a position remote from the center of the ceiling wall being smaller than that at a position proximate to the center, the feeding ports being mounted to positions at which a line equally dividing the ceiling wall into two in a front and rear direction is not included.

Further, neither Yoshimura nor JP 63-174296 teach or suggest a wave guide formed in an L-shape and having a side wave guide extended upwardly *along an outer side face of the heating chamber such that the side wave guide is in direct contact with the outer side face of the heating chamber*, as required in each of claims 3-8. As discussed above, the Examiner relies on elements 3 and 8 of Yoshimura as being equivalent to the claimed heating chamber and wave guide, respectively. However in Yoshimura, the side portion of wave guide 8 does not extend along an outer side face of heating chamber 3. In contrast, as shown in Fig. 3 of Yoshimura, another L-shaped structure, indicated by reference number 7 *extends between the wave guide 8 and the heating chamber 3*. JP 63-174296 fails to make up for the deficiencies of Yoshimura as JP 63-174296 fails to disclose an L-shaped wave guide.

Because neither Yoshimura nor JP 63-174296, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every limitation set forth in claims 3-8, the combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296 cannot render obvious such claims. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-174296 and further in view of Noda et al. (JP 05-74568). As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of claims 4-7, which have been cancelled herein. Claim 9 depends from claim 1. Claims 4-7 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-

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174296 and further in view of Noda et al. (JP 05-74568). Accordingly, the present rejection to claim 9 is rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of Gerling et al. (US 4,714,811). Claim 10 was canceled herein thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 38340.

Respectfully submitted,
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